

2021

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**Estonia-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Group issues statement
on 29th anniversary of Khojaly Massacre
(February 19, 2021)**

The Estonia-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Group has issued a statement on the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre.

The statement reads: “The Estonia-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Group expresses its heart-felt condolences to the Azerbaijan nation on the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. We share the pain of the Azerbaijani people about the Khojaly massacre, which meant the massacre of over 600 innocent civilians, including many children, women and the elderly.

We condemn in the strongest terms the crimes against humanity committed against Azerbaijani civilians on the night between 25 and 26 February 1992. The perpetrations of this mass murder must be made accountable.

We welcome the termination of all the military activities between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. We express our support for the efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan towards lasting peace, integration, and development of the released territories.”

**TV program on Khojaly genocide broadcast in
(February 24, 2021)**

A TV program dedicated to the Khojaly genocide was aired on February 23 as part of the show “The Contreras Report: International Edition” by the well-known American journalist Raoul Lowery Contreras.

Contreras has authored books titled “Murder in the Mountains: War Crime in Khojaly and the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict” and “The Armenian Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy”, both published in California. He also published many articles on Azerbaijan and the region.

In the program, the journalist states that in February 1992, Armenian troops attacked the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly and brutally killed 613 Azerbaijani civilians, including children, women and elderly. The author notes how the survivors of the Khojaly genocide were subjected to unimaginable torture by their Armenian captors.

Contreras underlines that Khojaly massacre is an act of genocide and a crime against humanity.

The author talks about the books written by Western journalists, which highlight what happened that night in Khojaly. Contreras also gives quotes from the book authored by the brother of Monte Melkonian, a California-born Armenian terrorist, who was in Khojaly during those fateful days, as well as Armenia’s former President Serzh Sargsyan’s interview, and stresses how Armenian leaders shamelessly admitted the atrocities committed by Armenia in Khojaly.

Contreras notes that perpetrators of Khojaly genocide have not been prosecuted to this date and are still at large. He says that many of them are hailed as national heroes in Armenia and have held or continue to hold high-ranking positions in the government.

At the end, the author presents testimonies by two female survivors of Khojaly.

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**Azerbaijan's Consulate General in Los Angeles produces short film on Khojaly genocide
(February 25, 2021)**

The Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles has produced a short film dedicated to the Khojaly genocide of 1992.

The film mentions that on February 26, 1992, Armenian troops attacked Azerbaijan's town of Khojaly and brutally murdered 613 civilians, including children, women and elderly. The film presents a quote from Armenia's ex-president Serzh Sargsyan, who was then in command of Armenian forces in Khojaly, and who bragged about teaching Azerbaijanis a lesson with this horrific genocidal massacre: "Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that they were joking with us, they thought that the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype]. And that's what happened."

The film also quotes the book authored by Markar Melkonian, the brother of the California-born Armenian terrorist Monte Melkonian, describing the cruelty of Armenian soldiers at Khojaly: "The fighters unsheathed the knives... and began stabbing... Monte crunched over the grass where women and girls lay scattered like broken dolls."

It is noted that the Human Rights Watch described Khojaly as "the largest massacre in the conflict" between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The film highlights that in the early 1990s, Armenia invaded and ethnically cleansed 20 percent of Azerbaijan, forcibly displacing 800,000 Azerbaijanis from their ancestral lands. Stressing the fact that the UN Security Council condemned the invasion of Azerbaijan in 1993, the film shows the video of a UNSC statement read by Madeleine Albright, the then U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. In her capacity as the President of the Security Council, Albright demanded the "immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces" from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

It is also mentioned that as of today 17 countries and over 20 U.S. States have condemned the Khojaly genocide.

It states that in 2020, Azerbaijan liberated its lands from occupation and restored its territorial integrity. Similarly to Khojaly, during last fall's war Armenia targeted civilians again, killing 100 Azerbaijani civilians, including 12 children, and wounding over 400. It concludes by noting that the perpetrators of both the Khojaly genocide and the latest war crimes are still at large.

The film has also been translated by Azerbaijan's relevant Embassies into several languages, including Albanian, Chinese, Farsi, German, Greek, Spanish, Turkish and others. It can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/vDAvkTcafLc>

**Awareness-raising campaign reflecting Khojaly realities organized in London
(February 25, 2021)**

An awareness-raising campaign dedicated to the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide has been launched in London with the support of the State Committee on Work with Diaspora and with the organization of Sabina Guliyeva, head of the Natavan Group operating in the United Kingdom.

During the three-day rally, a car with an electronic board reflecting the realities of the Khojaly genocide will move through the central streets of London. The slogans such as "Justice for Khojaly!", "We remember!" are reflected on the electronic board. The photos on the board are accompanied by information such as "Khojaly genocide. February 26, 1992", "Aghdam. Funeral of Khojaly victims", "63 children were killed, 76 children were disabled", "25 children lost both parents, 130 children lost one parent, 8 families were completely destroyed".

The rally, to last from 10:00 to 18:00 London time, will cover the central streets and squares of the city.

**British MPs table motion on 29th Anniversary of Khojaly Massacre
(February 26, 2021)**

“Members of the House of Commons of the British Parliament, Chairman of All-Party Parliamentary Group on Azerbaijan Bob Blackman and Democratic Unionist Party MP Jim Shannon have tabled a motion on the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre,” head of the working group on Azerbaijan-UK interparliamentary relations Javanshir Feyziyev has told AZERTAC.

The motions reads: “That this House extends condolences to the people of Azerbaijan as they commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre on 26 February 2021; reflects on this atrocity committed against citizens of Azerbaijan amid conflict in the region; and welcomes the recent commitment of both parties to a lasting peace.”

**Awareness-raising campaign on Khojaly Massacre launched in Tokyo
(February 27, 2021)**

An awareness-raising campaign dedicated to the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre has been launched in Tokyo with the support of Azerbaijan's State Committee on Work with Diaspora, as well as Azerbaijan-Japan Friendship Center, Azerbaijani Embassy in Japan and Tokyo-based Azerbaijanis.

The awareness-raising campaign took place in Tokyo's main areas, including the Tokyo railway station, Azerbaijani Embassy in Japan and "Karabakh" restaurant located in the capital's famous Shinjuku district.

During the campaign, on the initiative of Tokyo-based Aysu Yusifzadeh, specially designed medical masks and informative brochures, reflecting the slogan "Justice for Khojaly!" in English and Japanese, as well as the QR-code providing an insight into the Khojaly Massacre were distributed among the local population.

**Khojaly Genocide: Height of human resilience & resurrection, Regional expert
Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan
(February 27, 2021)**

The English-language "Pakistan Observer" newspaper has published an article by Member Board of Experts of the Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) of Pakistan and regional geopolitical analyst Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan headlined "Khojaly Genocide: Height of human resilience & resurrection".

The article reads: "This year the Republic of Azerbaijan marks the 29th anniversary of Khojaly genocide. On February 25 to 26, 1992, the units of the Armenian armed forces, Armenian terrorist groups in Nagorno-Karabakh and personnel of the 366th motorized infantry regiment of the former Soviet army deployed in Khankandi town of Azerbaijan committed an act of genocide in Khojaly town of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

It was heinous crime against humanity organized by the then political leadership of the Republic of Armenia. The government of Pakistan, parliament, Senate and people stood first to condemn Armenian cruelty, genocide policies and especially human tragedy of Khojaly.

The Armenian offensive on Khojaly killed 613 Azerbaijani citizens including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly people and seriously injured 487 others, according to Azerbaijani figures. Moreover, some 150 of the 1,275 Azerbaijanis that the Armenians captured during the massacre remain missing. In the massacre, eight families were completely wiped out, while 130 children lost one parent, and 25 children lost both parents.

A ruthless massacre of the Azerbaijanis was also perpetrated in Shusha, Irevan, Zangazur, Karabakh, Nakhchivan, Kars and other regions. When committing these atrocities on historical Azerbaijani lands, the Armenians burned schools and mosques and destroyed samples of material culture of Azerbaijanis.

Genocides against Azerbaijanis committed by fascist Armenians were acts of darkness, destruction and indecency. It was act of ethnic cleansing and siege of perpetual ignorance and madness. Armenia destroyed infrastructure. It polluted nature and natural resources. It tried to change the existing geographic proposition in the illegally occupied areas of Azerbaijan.

Surprisingly, it triggered new chapter in human traits. Courage fought with conspiracy, patience tussled with naked power, bravery confronted with brutality, honor coped with heinousness, and the last but not the least, dignity with destruction and ultimately superior human values of Azerbaijanis people won over martial obsessions of Armenians.

Khojaly has direct correlation with human blood which is sacred and whosoever kills in the path of "right", "virtue", "noble cause" and above all struggle of independence is a "martyr" and national and ancient history of Azerbaijan is full of unlimited unsung heroes "martyrs" who laid down their precious lives for the dignity and honor of their country Immense socio-economic prosperity, strong defense and regional supremacy is the resultant of these unlimited sacrifices of Azerbaijanis.

During Khojaly and series of genocides humanity was "bleed" and "beasts" were everywhere in different cities of Azerbaijan but it could not strike-down the true spirits of interfaith harmony, patriotism, national pride and communal unity and people having diversity of faith, belief and origin stood fast to fight against all odds. Cities were sieged and darkness was everywhere. Men were arrested. Media was blocked and the people were deprived of the right to access information.

Thanks to resolute of Azerbaijanis people who did not “bow down” to Armenian untamed martial force and stood fast. They fought with bravery and ultimately sacrificed their precious lives for the dignity and honor of their country.”

**Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States issues statement
on 29th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide
(February 27, 2021)**

The Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUOIC) has issued a statement on the 29th anniversary of Khojaly Genocide. The document was published on the organization's official website (en.puic.org).

The statement reads: “29 years have passed since the occupation of the Khojaly town and the genocide of its civilian residents in February 26, 1992, one of the bitterest consequences of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

After blockade of Khojaly town by the occupant Armenian armed forces, around 2,500 remaining civilians fleeing to reach the nearest safe area in order to survive were ambushed and brutally killed or captured near Nakhchivanly and Pirjamal villages. Others, mainly women and children died from frostbite while wandering in the mountains.

In all, as the result of genocidal massacre, 613 citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly brutally killed by Armenians. 1275 were taken hostage, while the fate of other 150 people remains unknown. In the course of that tragic night 487 inhabitants of Khojaly were wounded, including 76 children; eight families were completely wiped out; 130 children lost one parent; and 25 children lost both parents. Of those who perished 56 were killed with particular cruelty: they were variously burned alive, beheaded or had eyes gouged out, while pregnant women were bayoneted in the abdomen. The town was razed to the ground.

Numerous war crimes against humanity, including genocide, were 'committed against the Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly town constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

National Leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev unveiled the essence of the Khojaly genocide and in February 1994, the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan gave legal and political assessment of this crime.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev had always underlined that the only possible solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict could be within the sovereignty, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan, and had stated about the necessity for the unconditional withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and prosecution of those who committed the act of genocide.

The “Justice for Khojaly” international campaign initiated by Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva is one of the purposeful measures taken for dissemination in the world of the true information about the Khojaly genocide and recognition of this tragedy as an act of genocide committed against the people of Azerbaijan. Thus, relevant decisions have been made on this genocide act in several countries.

The issue of the Khojaly genocide was raised to be discussed at the parliaments of Pakistan, Mexico, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Jordan, Peru, Colombia, Paraguay, Honduras, Afghanistan. Indonesia and others adopted political documents on condemning the crime. Besides, the Khojaly genocide officially recognized by The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and condemned as a massacre.

In its judgment of 22 April 2010, the European Court of Human Rights determined the massacre of the Azerbaijani civilian population of Khojaly town to be "acts of particular gravity which may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity".

The Republic of Armenia being an aggressor bears the responsibility of abovementioned crimes against the civilian population of Azerbaijan. The overall assessment of the causes and consequences of the war unleashed by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and all existing facts of the tragic events in Khojaly make it absolutely clear that the crimes committed in that town of Azerbaijan were not an isolated or sporadic act, but a part of Armenia's widespread and systematic policy and practice of atrocities. The intentional slaughter of the civilians in Khojaly was directed at their mass extermination only because they were Azerbaijanis.

Despite the agreement on ceasefire, Armenia's military-political leadership continued their military provocations against Azerbaijan, made statements undermining the format and basic principles of peace talks and threatened the Republic of Azerbaijan with the statement of "new war for new territories".

On September 27, 2020 in order to ensure the protection of life and security of the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to suppress the continuous combat activities of occupant Armenia, Azerbaijan Armed Forces, led by Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev launched the counter-offensive operation using its right of self-defense to liberate occupied territories. During the 44-day Patriotic War, Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli districts, as well as Hadrut town and Shusha, the capital city of Azerbaijani culture were liberated from occupation.

Withdrawal of Armenian Armed Forces from Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin districts was ensured in accordance with the Declaration signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation on November 10, 2020 on the complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. As a consequence, fundamental rights of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani civil citizens to return to their ancestral lands have been restored.

It should be emphasized that as in the Khojaly genocide the Republic of Armenia continued its crimes against humanity during the 44-day Patriotic War. Armenia deliberately targeted civilian population and infrastructures of populous Azerbaijani cities such as Ganja, Mingachevir and Naftalan, as well as Barda, Tartar and Goranboy, Khizi districts, located far outside the battlefield, with ballistic missiles and cluster bombs. As a result, more than 100 civilians, including 12 children and 17 women were killed, 423 civilians were wounded. Thousands of residential buildings and hundreds of social facilities, including hospitals, kindergartens, schools, trade facilities, religious and cultural sites were destroyed.

Paying to the tribute to the memory of martyrs on the eve of the 29th Anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy we state that this crime must be recognized and condemned by international bodies, and investigated by the special international commission in compliance with the norms and principles of international law, without allowing any double standards to bring the perpetrators to justice. Otherwise, impunity and silence will lead new human tragedies.

The people of Azerbaijan that commemorate the victims of the Khojaly genocide on February 26 of each year, still wait offenders of the genocide to be brought to justice. May Allah have mercy on all martyrs!”

**The Parliament Magazine: The Khojaly genocide-A crime against humanity
(March 1, 2021)**

The Parliament Magazine news portal has published an article by Azerbaijani MP Konul Nurullayeva headlined “The Khojaly genocide-A crime against humanity.”

The article reads: “Khojaly is a city located in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Khojaly has been under siege since October 1991, the start of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Karabakh War. On the night of February 25-26, 1992, Armenian armed forces destroyed the city of Khojaly with the support of armoured vehicles and soldiers of 366th Regiment, which stationed in nearby Khankandi since Soviet times. In just one night, 613 people, including 63 children, were killed. 8 families were fully destroyed, and 487 people were disabled. 1,275 civilians, including the elderly, women and children, were taken prisoner and subjected to unprecedented torture, humiliation, and insults. 56 people were killed with extreme cruelty, 3 were burnt alive, their scalps peeled off, their eyes taken out, and the bellies of pregnant women torn with bayonets. All of those victims were Azerbaijani.

The brutal killings were also documented by Human Rights Watch and the Memorial human rights organisation. Representatives of international media outlets visiting the site were horrified by what they saw. One of the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century took place in Azerbaijan. What happened in Khojaly was no different from the genocides seen in Khatyn, the Holocaust, Songmi, Lidice, Babi Yar, Rwanda, and Srebrenica, which all left a deep scar on world history.

One of the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century took place in Azerbaijan. What happened in Khojaly was no different from the genocides such as seen in Khatyn, the Holocaust, Songmi, Lidice, Babi Yar, Rwanda, and Srebrenica”

It is no coincidence that during his interview with the British journalist Thomas de Waal in 2000, the former Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated: “Before Khojaly, Azerbaijanis thought they were joking with us, they thought that Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We had to put an end to all of this, so we did. We broke this stereotype of Azerbaijanis” (The note is taken from Thomas de Waal's book ‘Black Garden’).

This confession confirms that the crime against humanity in Khojaly was deliberate and well planned. Later, the Armenians admitted that the first major task of the Armenian armed forces was to destroy the Khojaly bridgehead, to evacuate the Asgaran-Khankandi road passing through, and to seize the airport controlled by the Azerbaijanis. It should be noted that Khojaly was the only city in the Karabakh region with its own airport.”

**Ankara hosts photo exhibition on Khojaly genocide
(March 11, 2021)**

A photo exhibition dedicated to the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was launched at the Central Army House of the Turkish Armed Forces in Ankara.

Turkish Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces General Yasar Guler, Commander of the Land Forces Army General Umit Dunder, Commander of the Navy Adnan Ozbal and Commander of the Air Force Army General Hasan Kucukakyuz attended the opening ceremony.

Speaking at the event, Hulusi Akar said: “We honor the memory of our Azerbaijani brothers who were brutally killed in Khojaly 29 years ago. We always share, from the bottom of our hearts, the grief of our Azerbaijani Turkic brothers. We didn’t not forget the massacre, we will not forget! We will never forget the past, but we will look to the future. May God have mercy on all our compatriots martyred in Khojaly.”

Special Correspondent

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